

General Education Committee

November 9, 2009 – HUB 123

MINUTES

Present: Lourdes Aviles, Samuel D. Brickley II (Chair), Mary E. Campbell (consultant, non-voting), Wilson A. Garcia, Elliott G. Gruner, Jong-Yoon Kim (2:45 pm), David Zehr [six voting members]

Excused: Christopher C. Chabot, Corey J. DeGroot (student, voting), Annie Gagne (student, voting)

Vacant: Dean of the Academic Experience

Presenters: Trent Boggess, Gerry Buteau, John Krueckeberg, Robert Miller, Len Reitsma, Warren Tomkiewicz

Recorded in the order in which the agenda item was discussed. Sam Brickley called the meeting to order at 2:30 pm. The Chair announced that Mary Campbell had received the Patricia Storer Award for Service and the Committee congratulated Mary.

2. Course Proposals

a. Early and Standard Review (tabled from October 26th):

- ESP 3400 Life in the Universe (experimental INCO). Dr. Tomkiewicz spoke about the course and its integration. *Approved 5-0-0-4.*
- BI 3240 Conservation (sunset DICO). Dr. Reitsma submitted a revised syllabus and Renewal form. *Approved 6-0-0-3.* Sunset date is 5/2014.
- BIDI 2xxx Plants and Civilization (experimental SSDI). Dr. Pruyn submitted a revised syllabus. *Approved 6-0-0-3.*

b. Early Review (approved); sunset date is 5/2014:

- CD 3000 Philosophical and Historical Perspectives on the Child in Society (sunset INCO) (sunset WRCO)
- ER 2000 Introduction to the Early Childhood Profession (sunset WRCO)
- ER 3200 Assessment in Early Childhood (sunset QRCO)
- IS 4360 Cultural Diversity and American Society (sunset DICO) (sunset INCO)
- HI 2222 Field of History (new QRCO) [pending Curriculum Committee approval]
- HIDI 1206 Remembering Ronald Reagan: A 20th Century History (sunset PPDI)
- HI 3354 Health and Illness in American History (sunset WECO)
- HIDI 1305 Childhood in American History (sunset SSDI)
- HI 3826 Sex and Empire in Colonial India (sunset GACO) (sunset WRCO)

c. Early Review (not approved):

- CD 1000 Introduction to Childhood Studies (sunset TECO). *Approved 6-0-0-3.* Sunset date is 5/2014.
- HIDI 2310 American Economic Development (sunset PPDI). *Approved 6-0-0-3.* Sunset date is 5/2014.
- HI 3820 Topics in History [must be three credits] (sunset GACO). *Approved 6-0-0-3.* Sunset date is 5/2014.
- HI 3765 India and the World (sunset GACO) (sunset INCO)
- HI 2010 World History Since 1500 (sunset GACO)
- HI 3760 History of Southeast Asia (sunset GACO)
Approved 6-0-0-3. Sunset date is 5/2014.

d. Standard Review:

General Education Committee

None.

Reviewing proposals:

- Proposal forms should be completely filled out and held to standards.
- Student evaluations are a direct assessment of the gen ed-ness of the course. Low student ratings—what is too low; what is the standard? We have an obligation to look at the numbers carefully. It would be better to have the evaluation results from more than one semester; having too few evaluations is difficult. The instructions on the renewal form say to submit the evaluation from the last time the course was taught.
- Some courses are taught by more than one instructor.
- We should be prepared to defend our concerns.
- What do we do when the scores are low? What is the procedure? There appears to be no formal procedure. We should probably discuss it. We could ask for a written explanation if the evaluations are low.

We will continue to discuss these points next spring in our general discussion of assessment.

1. **Approval of October 26th minutes.** Elliot requested the following changes:
Change “Elliott wants both descriptions to be the same.” to “Elliott wants the descriptions to be consistent.”
Change: “Elliott would like to hear occasionally from the First Year Council and the Math Department.” to “Elliott would like to hear occasionally from the First Year Seminar and the Math Department.”
Approved as amended 6-0-0-3.

3. **Reports**

- a. GACO Faculty Focus Group--update (Brickley). November 8th Sam e-mailed an invitation to the faculty who teach GACO to attend the **November 17th Global Awareness Connection Faculty Focus Group** which is being held in the **Lamson Tower Room**; refreshments will be served. The General Education Committee is also invited to attend. Lourdes will scribe the session. Sam reviewed the five questions that will be used for the discussion. Sam will distribute to the Committee Robert Miller’s report of the CTDI Focus Group, held last April.
- b. myPlymouth v. Faculty Governance Blog—update (Brickley). Sam reported that the Steering Committee has delegated Scott Coykendall and Sam to work on this task of trying to get everything back into myPlymouth. They will start this semester by talking with the ITS staff and continue on the process next semester.
- c. Revision of course proposal forms—update (Brickley). Sam has been working on the forms. The goal is to have something ready early next semester, with implementation Fall 2010. Input from the Committee is welcome.

4. **Announcements.**

None.

The General Education Committee meets on the second and fourth Mondays of the month from 2:30 to 3:30 pm in HUB 123. The next meeting of the Committee will be **November 23rd**.

General Education Committee

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 3:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary E. Campbell, Scribe
Director of Curriculum Support

Courses with 5/2010 sunset dates that must be submitted **no later than December 7, 2009**:

- 4 Art Department courses
- 3 Atmospheric Science and Chemistry Department courses
- 2 Biological Sciences Department courses
- 3 Business Department courses
- 7 Communication and Media Studies Department courses
- 1 Criminal Justice Department course
- 5 English Department courses
- 3 Environmental Science and Policy Department courses
- 3 Health and Human Performance Department courses
- 5 Interdisciplinary Studies courses
- 13 Languages and Linguistics Department courses
- 5 Mathematics Department courses
- 4 Music, Theatre, and Dance Department courses
- 7 Philosophy Department courses
- 3 Psychology Department courses
- 8 Social Science Department courses
- 3 Social Work Department courses
- 1 Women's Studies course

These minutes were approved November 23, 2009.